







## BLUE GRASS BLADE.

# TURNING A "NEW LEAF"

Turning a new leaf on new year day was an old idea when I was young, and I have lately gone into my 67th year.

I suppose so many old men have started to do better on the first day of January and I have done it, but it is always distasteful to them to see any mention of the new year.

For a number of years—25 perhaps—I have, in anticipation of the approaching new year day, studiously avoided making any resolution to try to better my condition on the first day of the coming January and this is the way I feel about it now, as I write this piece on the night of the 30th of December.

The only time to try to begin to be better is now, whatever time that may be.

My own experience is that I am not making any if any, unless I am in a little better, or even better, but it is at least a pleasure to me to try to improve, and it is a pleasure to me to try to get others to be good if I can cause them to be.

If I could take my choice of all the

distinctions that men and women can have, it would be that of a good man but a minor regard to the man, the man who is the most good.

There are people of mild, sweet minds and manners who attract the admiration of people very much more than those who are bold, overblown, but who accomplish more that makes for the happiness of human and animals. The longer I live the more I am inclined to believe in the man who is the most good.

To me one of the most pliful classes of society is rich women who have nothing to do but amuse themselves and that makes for the happiness of human and animals. The longer I live the more I am inclined to believe that we should try to make happy, and I do not mean merely house pets but all domestic animals, and I feel sorry that the conditions are such that we do not comfort and security, we have to destroy noxious animals.

I think one of the earliest training for children should be to teach them not to hurt a bird, but, terfly, or lightning bug, and that even the destroying of fleas is a painful necessity.

I am not going to say that fishing and hunting are cruel and immoral, but I do believe that to do these purely for sport and recreation is good, in that those who do these, dispositions that give them more unhappiness than the fishing and hunting can give pleasure.

Isaac Walton, the patron saint of all fishermen, was singularly blind and fatigued, Christian action, and con-

tending that one could more perfectly worship God while fishing than at any other time.

Of course this involves the question of meat eating and leads in- to theories where I am not an adept.

The question "Is life worth living?" is what is bound to occur often

and it is bound to move today, with so much suicide going on around us, than ever before.

The answer is "It depends upon the liver." I have always regarded as an especially happy double entendre, though health perfect health does not secure happiness but mathematics, however, and I have known many invalids who seemed to be happy, and who certainly did make others happy.

When the question is answered from the moral view point I would say "It depends upon the liver,"

in the sense that those who are good man or woman, if we can imagine such, would be absolutely happy, for nothing is absolute but mathematics, however, and I have known

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absolute reason, but you know the principle is true, but just how far we should deny ourselves comforts to make others happy I believe can only be determined by the individual.

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I believe that a great deal of the

unhappiness of poor people results from their envy of rich people who are not happy.

I believe that a great deal of hap-

iness and usefulness are now being de-

veloped by the organized efforts to in-

crease happiness when hap-

iness must be an individual matter.

And yet, in spite of this, my own

experience, as a member of the Na-

tional Guard, has been to believe

that it is an organized effort to de-

vote the human race.

In the same way, while my best

judgment is now that the pos-

session of millions of dollars proba-

bly gives its owner more trouble than

happiness and that Rockefeller and

Hawkins are not happy, I believe

that many poor people, I suppose if some-

body would offer me millions of dol-

lars to-day, I would take it, know-

ing that I could not sleep at all, while ordinar-

ily I sleep soundly all night without

owning a dollar.

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all talk one way and act another way

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